

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated peptide having antimicrobial activity and an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

WCFZ<sub>5</sub>VCZ<sub>2</sub>RGZ<sub>3</sub>CRZ<sub>2</sub>KCRR,

Z<sub>2</sub>RWCFRVCYZ<sub>3</sub>GZ<sub>2</sub>CZ<sub>3</sub>Z<sub>5</sub>Z<sub>2</sub>CR,

RRWCFZ<sub>5</sub>VCZ<sub>3</sub>RGZ<sub>4</sub>CYZ<sub>4</sub>Z<sub>4</sub>CRZ<sub>1</sub>,

RZ<sub>5</sub>WCZ<sub>3</sub>Z<sub>2</sub>Z<sub>3</sub>CYRGFCZ<sub>3</sub>Z<sub>2</sub>Z<sub>5</sub>CR,

RRWCZ<sub>3</sub>RVCYZ<sub>5</sub>GF<sub>5</sub>CYRKCR, and

RRWCFRVCYRGZ<sub>3</sub>FCYRKCR;

wherein Z<sub>1</sub> is a basic amino acid residue or no amino acid residue; Z<sub>2</sub> is a basic or aromatic residue, Z<sub>3</sub> is a basic amino acid residue, Z<sub>4</sub> is arginine, valine or alanine, and Z<sub>5</sub> is an aromatic or aliphatic amino acid residue.